

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (FILBINGER, HANS)

SUBJ: MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER'S OCTOBER VISIT TO US

REF: (A) STATE 187527, (B) STUTTGART 1107

1. ALONG WITH DISCUSSION OF BUNDESTAG ELECTION PROSPECTS (SEPARATE MEMCON), I DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER ON AUGUST 31 HIS INTERESTS AND THE SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL A FOR OCTOBER 21 WASHINGTON VISIT. IN ESSENCE HE SEEMED TO BE PLEASED WITH PROSPECT OF CALL ON SECRETARY AND COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AROUND TABLE DISCUSSION. I MENTIONED THE DESIRABILITY OF COMMUNICATING WITH FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON RE CONGRESSIONAL VISITS.

2. POINTS IN WHICH FILBINGER EXPRESSES SPECIAL INTEREST INCLUDED:

A. DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA, INCLUDING EASTERN EUROPE (USSR, POLAND, GDR); ITALY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL; SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA; EUROPEAN POLITICAL TRENDS -- TOWARDS SOCIALISM? HE RATHER LIKES SOUTH AFRICA.

B. IN VIEW OF HIS OFFICIAL INVITATION TO PEKING EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE VIEWS OF OUR CHINA WATCHERS ON DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

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C. US ELECTION PROSPECTS AND IMPACT ON US FOREIGN POLICIES.

3. IN COVERING THE ABOVE INTERESTS FILBINGER INDICATED:

A. WILLINGENSS TO FLY UP FROM GEORGIA PRECEDING EVENING OF OCTOBER 20 IF IT FITTED SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE THE FOLLOWING DAY BETTER.

B. APPRECIATION OF FACT THAT ABOVE SUBJECTS MIGHT BE ALLOCATED AMONG THE SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY, COUNSELOR, ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION, AND MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN.

C. INTEREST IN WHETHER HE COULD SEE CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH PARTIES.

4. COMMENT: IN ASSESSING ABOVE INTERESTS ONE MUST BEAR IN MIND THE MINISTER PRESIDENT'S RATHER CLOSELY HELD, BUT NOT ILLOGICAL BELIEF THAT HE IS A LEADING CANDIDATE TO REPLACE SCHEEL AS BUNDESPRESIDENT IN 1979. HIS REASONING IS CONTAINED IN REFERRED MEMCON AND HIS VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICA, IRAN, US AND NEXT TO CHINA ARE SMALL PART OF HIS SCENARIO. JENKINS

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